Capsule Summary SM-532 Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant Leonardtown Private

c. late 1920s

The Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant is a two-story, brick commercial building located on the corner of Fenwick and Washington Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Constructed in the late-1920s by Roland B. Duke, the building retains much of its original exterior building materials and storefront fenestration. But while extending a significantly large architectural presence in the town, the building has also served a variety of important commercial interests.

The property for the building was initially purchased by Roland B. Duke in 1921. At the time, this location was bordered by a storehouse, dwelling, and hotel as well as the two main streets--making it a prime site for the construction of a commercial building. A 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance map notes that an auto sales showroom was located on the bottom floor. According to oral tradition, the second floor was used as a hall for significant events such as graduation ceremonies, parties, and other receptions. Since 1925, the building has hosted several other enterprises such as a bowling alley (still in place on the second floor), a grocery, a restaurant, a bar, natural foods store, and a florist. In housing these interests, the building signaled Leonardtown's continued shift from a mere residential and governmental center to a more diversified commercial, recreational, and social center in the early-twentieth century. The building remains under the Duke family ownership.

SM-532, Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant

St. Mary's County
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

<u>Historic Context</u> Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture **Economic**

Resource Type Category:

Building

Historic Environment:

Town

Historic Function and Use:

Store

Known Design Source:

Unknown

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF

Maryland Historical Trust HISTORIC PROPERTIES State Historic Sites Inventory Form

urve	No.	SM-532
Magi N	₩.	
ЮE	yes	no

1. Nam	e (indicate pr	eferred name)		
historic Duke	's Fountain-Bar-Res	taurant		
and/or common				
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	400 Washington St	treet		not for publication
city, town Lec	onardtown	vicinity of	congressional district	3
state Marylan	nd	county	St. Mary's	
<u>3. Clas</u>	sification			
Category districtX_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not applicable	Status _X_ occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names an	d mailing address	es of <u>all</u> owners)
name Virgin	ia B. Duke			
street & number	400 Washington St	creet (PO Box 135)	telephone i	no.: (301) 475-9480
city, town Leo	onardtown	state	and zip code Mar	ryland 20650
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	n	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. St.	Mary's County Courth	ouse	liber 60
street & number				folio 55
city, town Leo	nardtown		state	Maryland
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Sur	veys
title				
date			federal sta	ate county loca
pository for su	urvey records			
city, town			state	

Survey No. SM-532

Condition Check one Check one excellent unaltered original site good ruins altered moved date of move fair unexposed	excellent deteriorated good ruins	unaltered	_x_ original site		
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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

Constructed in the late 1920s, Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant is a two-story, brick, commercial building situated on the northwest corner of Fenwick and Washington Streets in Leonardtown, Maryland. Facing the town green and bordered by two streets, a vacant lot, and an alleyway, the building stands out as being the largest structure in town. While constructed in the 1920s, the building still maintains diverse commercial activities such as a bar, storage space, florist, and health food store.

Facing the town green and Washington Street, the west or primary elevation represents the most decorated facade. Constructed of tan brick laid in a common bond consisting of one row of alternating headers and stretchers for every six rows of stretchers, this elevation is pierced on the first floor by three picture windows and two doors. While two of the picture windows are shaded by awnings, each of these windows exhibit four, nine light, casement windows above the plate glass. Each of these bays also exhibit decorative trim highlighted by small dentils. The two doors on this floor are modern panelled doors. Nine, twelve-light, casement windows light the second floor. The top of this elevation consists of a stepped gable, false parapet that is decorated using brick of a different color laid in a flemish-bond pattern. Several diamond-shaped motifs are interspersed among this decorative brickwork.

The north elevation consists of a first floor extension that juts out from the main body of the building and follows East Fenwick Street. This extension is constructed of the same tan brickwork as that on the west elevation. At the corner of this extension and the main elevation is a single plate glass door permitting entry into the southwest store. Proceeding westward, this extension consists of a picture window with four, nine-light casement windows above it, four, six-light fixed sash, an aluminum siding covered garage bay, and a recessed doorway for the bar flanked by two window bays partially covered with siding and each containing two modern sliding windows. The second floor of this elevation as well as the walls of all other facades are constructed of a six-to-one, common brick bond. This floor also consists of two, twelve-light, casement windows, an exterior, brick, furnace flue, and three bricked over windows identified through the use of different types of brick. Four, six-light fixed sash are located directly above these covered over windows.

The east elevation consists of a drive-up, package goods window, a door to the interior of the bar, three louvered vents, and evidence for a stair to the flat roof covering the north first floor extension. On the second floor are four, six-light, casement windows. This elevation also has a similar stepped gable, false parapet. A flat roof shelters the alleyway that runs in front of this elevation.

The south elevation only contains three, twelve-light, casement windows. Two of these windows are located on top of one another near the southeastern corner. This could indicate the presence of an interior stairwell.

<u>8. 5</u>	ıgn	iticance		Survey No. SM-5	532
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Specific	dates		Builder/Architect		* ***
check:	an Appli	cable Criteria: <u>x</u> A d/or cable Exception: _A of Significance:	BCDF		
Prepare support.	both	a summary paragraph o	of significance and a	a general statement o	of history and

Constructed in the mid-1920s by Roland B. Duke, Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant represents a significant two-story, brick commercial building in the heart of Leonardtown. While retaining much of its exterior architectural details, the building has served a variety of important commercial interests under the continual ownership of the Duke family.

The property for the building was initially purchased by Roland B. and Kenneth B. Duke in 1921 from Joseph F. Neal. According to Edward Stokel, during the initial construction of the building, a large wind storm lifted off the roof and threw parts all over the surrounding streets. The building, though, was finished by 1929. At the time, this location was bordered by a storehouse, dwelling, and hotel as well as Washington and Madison (now Fenwick) streets—making it a prime site for the construction of a commercial building. A 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance map notes that an auto sales showroom was located on the bottom floor. According to Becky Proffitt, the second floor was used as a hall for significant events such as graduation ceremonies, parties, and other receptions. Since 1928, the building has hosted several other enterprises such as a bowling alley (still in place on the second floor), a restaurant/soda fountain/drug store, an IGA supermarket, a bar, natural foods store, and a florist. In serving these interests, the building signaled Leonardtown's continued emergence from a primarily residential and governmental hub to a more diversified commercial, recreational, and social center. The building is currently owned by Virginia B. Duke, wife of Benedict D. Duke.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-532

Duke, Virginia B. Personal interview, July 1996.

<u> 10. (</u>	Geographica	ıl Data			
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
(301) 269-2438

SM-532, Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant St. Mary's County 7.1 Description

The interior of the building has been extensively altered due to its commercial function. While the first floor has been used mostly for stores and restaurants, the second floor has served as a dance hall, theater, and meeting place and most recently as a bowling alley. While presently used as storage space, the bowling alleys remain in place. The corner store (the store located on the northwest corner of the building) still retains a 1950s counter manufactured by F. A. Davis of Baltimore. According to Virginia Duke, current owner, the Bar, whose entrance is located on the north elevation, contains a 150 year old wooden bar originally from Baltimore.

SM-532, Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant

St. Mary's County 8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber 60, Folio 55

Grantee: Benedict D. Duke and Virginia B. Duke Grantor: Roland B. Duke and Lillian D. Duke

Date: October 27, 1955

Note: The property is purchased for \$10.00 in fee simple. The total acreage is around 1/4 of an

acre.

Reference: JMM Liber 3, Folio 67

Grantee: Roland B. Duke Grantor: Mary E. Hasselworth

Date: April 1, 1925

Note: The property is purchased for \$6,650. The boundaries of the property are described as being on the East side of Washington Street between the properties now owned and occupied by Roland B. Duke on the north thereof Hotel St. Mary's to the stable yard of said hotel on the south and on the east by the division line of the stable property now owned by George P. Loker

containing one-half an acre.

Reference: EBA Liber 9, Folio 282 Grantee: Mary E. Hasselworth Grantor: Max L. Millison Date: April 29, 1911

Note: Same property as listed above.

Reference: no reference given for this entry

Grantee: Max L. Millison and wife

Grantor: Asa A. Lawrence and Anna G. Lawrence

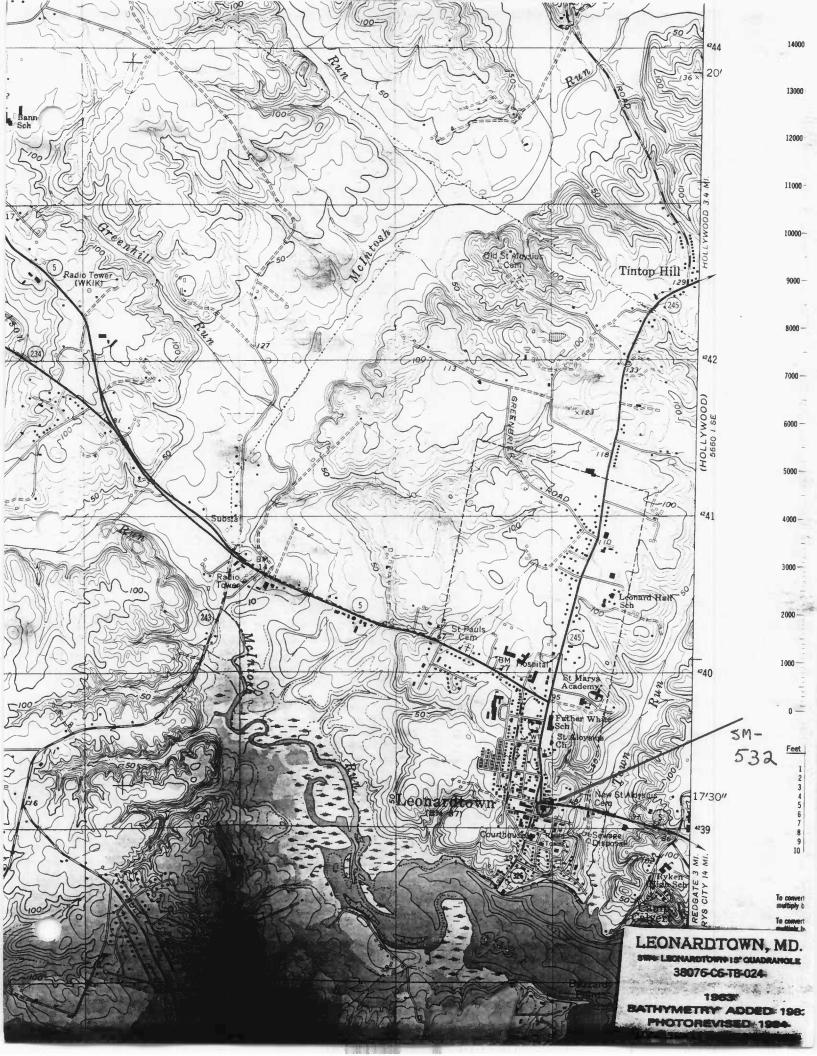
Date: July 11, 1910

Reference: JFF Liber 11, Folio 9

Grantee: Asa A. Lawrence

Grantor: F. Eugene Wathen and Estelle Wathen--children of Missouri Wathen

Date: October 8, 1888



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